

Tribal Monitoring Guidance Workgroup Conference Call 10/24/05

Attendees:

Andrea Barber (Salt River), Bill Thompson (Penobscot), Charlie Lippert (Mille Lacs), Gary Richardson (El Paso), George Dilbeck (TAMS), James Hemby & John Brohan (Southern Ute), Joy Wiecks (Fond du Lac), Kermit Flowers, Lisa Brenneman, Randy Ashley (Salish and Kootenai Tribes), Sam Kitto (Santee Sioux Tribe), Sandra Parker (NTEC), Stephen Hartsfield (NTAA), Aunjane Gautreau (R5), Bill Nally (R6), Faye Blondin (R2), Keith Rose (R10), Leland Grooms (R7), Mary Manous (R10), Michael Copeland (R8), Motria Caudill and Stephanie Cheaney (R5), Norm Beloin (R1), Joe Tikvart (OAQPS/SEE), Julie McClintock (OAQPS), Phil Lorang (OAQPS), Tami Laplante (OAQPS)

Discussion:

The purpose of this conference call was to: (1) review the NTAA meeting during which the draft guidance document on tribal ambient monitoring was discussed on October 5; (2) review the NTAA comments; and (3) consider next steps in responding to the comments. Julie McClintock had provided the following information before the call: the agenda for the NTAA discussion of tribal monitoring (including discussion groups), discussion group comments, and a summary of the NTAA report out on monitoring. She indicated that the agenda for the NTAA meeting was composed of: an overview of the guidance document; five discussion groups that considered background, EPA policy and strategies, technical guidance, guidance on funding/support, and tribal perspective; and a report out session.

Stephen Hartsfield continued the discussion by summarizing the NTAA comments which identified the need for four separate documents, rather than the single document on monitoring submitted for NTAA review; two documents would require an EPA lead and two would have an NTAA/tribal lead. First, EPA would have the lead on monitoring guidance for tribes to be developed with the help of tribal representatives; this would have components very similar to the guidance document that is already in preparation. Second, EPA would also have the lead for a document on policy and strategies that address identifying, prioritizing and managing resources related to tribal air quality; the document would be prepared in time for the 2007 grant guidance that is to be released in April 2006. Next, NTAA and the tribes would have the lead for a "marketing" document on the state of tribal air programs, including a snapshot of tribal monitoring, its strengths and weakness. Steven Hartsfield and Bill Grantham are anticipated as primary authors of this 10 to 15 page document which will be started in November. Finally, NTAA (with EPA input) would also be responsible for a document on strategic planning for tribes that has a target release of summer 2006.

Julie indicated that comments from NTAA on the current draft monitoring guidance document indicated that the purpose is fuzzy and that EPA is trying to do too many things at once in the document. More transparency is needed without glossing over the fact that EPA issues must be addressed and by recognizing the OAR perspective. Julie recognized that a more comprehensive effort to summarize the NTAA comments was needed and that she would coordinate with Mehrdad Khatibi and Annabelle Allison to see those perspectives are included in the final NTAA notes. From this discussion it was evident though that the two documents recommended for preparation with an EPA lead are both necessary and desirable. Several participants on the conference call provided positive recognition of this position.

Guidance Document on Tribal Ambient Monitoring:

The discussion next turned to how this workgroup can take and relate the above recommendations to ongoing efforts. It was agreed that much of the information already in preparation can go into the monitoring guidance document; Annabelle Allison will have the lead in preparing this document. It was agreed that Phil Lorang will take the lead on a policy and strategies document; he will organize an outline for this document by early December and come back to the workgroup for review. It was unresolved whether these two guidance documents will involve separate or joint conference calls.

Norm Beloin indicated that he can proceed to rework Section IV with the NTAA comments by the end of November. It was recognized that every group working on one of the twelve sections needs to consider NTAA comments and to coordinate with the section's lead person. The target for revised drafts is November 30 with the next conference call scheduled for December 5. It was agreed that a revised outline for the technical document would be provided and that a separate call with section leads was not needed.

Next Steps:

1. Completed NTAA notes with paragraphs by session leads will be provided as soon as possible.
2. Working meetings of the separate section groups for the guidance document on tribal ambient monitoring are needed during November; a revised outline will be provided as soon as possible. A good draft of each of the twelve sections should be completed and submitted to Julie by November 30.
3. The next workgroup conference call will be on December 5.
4. Phil's outline for the policy and strategies document will be provided at the time of the conference call.
5. For those interested, information concerning NCore is available on the AMTIC website at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/amtic/monitor.html>. Information on tribal air monitoring is available at <http://www.epa.gov/air/tribal/>; this website will be updated regularly to include the latest information.